

LOWERING THE NUMBER OF THE UNINSURED

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to disagree with my fellow representative; but, Mr. Speaker, the President's program and the House program this week is going to find a solution for the uninsured for health care. Small businesses are dropping health plans because they cannot afford it.

This week, the House is going to take up the Small Business Health Fairness Act, and it will allow small businesses that would otherwise be unable to afford health insurance to join together to form association health plans which, by the way, is one of those things that we have had out there for a long time and needs to be passed. It will insure more people with quality care at lower rates.

Another important step today will be lowering the cost of health care by putting consumers in the driver's seat through health savings plans. Those plans give more people options when it comes to their health insurance, and they are a great part of lowering the cost of health care and helping to lower the number of uninsured.

Mr. Speaker, we are moving forward in this Congress, and we are going to move forward on these issues today for a better America.

LIVING UP TO THE PROMISE OF EDUCATION FUNDING

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Bush administration and this Congress to live up to its promise on education.

Despite the White House's media event this week, the administration's own budget request for next year would cut \$9.4 billion from the President's own No Child Left Behind Act. In the first 3 years under this new law, this administration has shorted America's schools by \$27 billion. That is a pretty poor record and a failure of leadership.

This week, the White House claimed that the States have billions of dollars of unspent Federal education funds, as if there is a stack of money sitting on some bureaucrat's shelf. As the only former State school chief serving in this Congress, I can tell my colleagues that nothing could be farther from the truth. School officials are struggling to fill countless unmet needs for funding, and this administration's failure to provide our needed education funds is a crushing burden.

Democrats have a better way. I have introduced legislation to require full funding for No Child Left Behind. Democrats support school construction

and helping local leaders build new schools, relieve overcrowding, reduce class sizes, and improve security. We must make sure every public school works to educate our children to meet the needs of the 21st century.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to live up to its promises made on education.

WE NEED NATIONAL UNITY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are proud of saying, which they say often, that they oppose the war, but support the troops. That is kind of like saying the tank is not empty, but the car is out of gas. It just does not make any sense. How do you support the troops if you are opposed to what they are doing?

Of course, then again, the statements by their party leader said, I voted "yes" before I voted "no" on the supplemental appropriations bill that would have given the troops the armor and the ammunition and the food and the supplies they need, but that is Democrat thinking.

When the statue of Saddam Hussein was being pulled down and celebrated, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) said, well, we could have pulled that statue down for a lot less money. I am sure the U.N. would have gotten around to it eventually through their, what, another resolution? We did 17; maybe one more resolution and the statue would have come on down.

Mr. Speaker, winning a war is not easy, and when you have leading Democrats saying the war is unwinnable, it sends a very bad signal to the troops whom they allege to support. That is not what we need.

Right now what we need is unity, national unity, getting behind the cause, getting behind the soldier in the foxhole. Let us think of him and put politics aside.

PROVIDING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, so much is in the news these days, it is hard for us to keep sight of any one thing; but as a great Nation, we ought to be able to do more than one thing at one time. One of the things we ought to be doing is taking care of our people in this country when it comes to delivering to them health care insurance.

We talk every day about how there are 44 million Americans who are uninsured, but what are we actually doing about it?

I often hear from my constituents who say to me, Congressman, if you

had to worry about your health insurance the way we have to worry about our health insurance every single day of the week, if you had to worry about your child the way we have to worry about our children, you would have health insurance for all Americans tomorrow.

Yet, we have Members of Congress who are coming here on the floor and saying that they are for health insurance. They say they are not for government insurance, no, no, they are against that, and yet name me one Member of Congress that does not sign up for the government-paid program in this Congress.

That is the hypocrisy we see in this Congress, not a Congress that is actually interested in the people's health care, but only their own.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INVESTIGATION OF THE MURDER OF EMMETT TILL

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago, the Department of Justice announced that it would be forming a partnership with the State of Mississippi to investigate the 1955 murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till. As I heard the news, two thoughts ran through my mind. On the one hand, as the Member of Congress who introduced a resolution, a bipartisan resolution calling upon the Justice Department to investigate Emmett's murder, I feel a sense of relief. On the other hand, four words come to my mind: it is about time.

Mr. Speaker, many of us regard the murder of Emmett Till and the subsequent sham Jim Crow trial that acquitted Emmett's murderers as a mockery, as a miscarriage of justice, and as the single motivational spark for the civil rights movement. Young Emmett's savage murder and his open funeral casket made international news, and it galvanized African Americans and others interested in the cause of civil rights to take matters into their own hands and to demand basic human rights to which all citizens are entitled.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that now maybe Ms. Till-Mobley and Emmett Till can begin to rest in peace.

GIVE SENIORS THE HEALTH CARE BENEFITS THEY DESERVE

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning, after having listened to Washington Journal, wherein the head of the Medicare-Medicaid program said, seniors are now, in fact, in a program with this discount drug card where they can pool their resources and get lower prices for their drugs.